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EDITORIAL

## TIMOTHY M. HEALY, UNCONSCIOUS SOCIOLOGIST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**M**R. Timothy M. Healy, the Irish Home Rule member of Parliament, recently delivered a great speech in Dundalk. As Mr. Healy imagined, he was putting in great licks for his party. What he did, in fact, was to help loosen the scales from the eyes of the dupes of the rule of phrases, and furnish a neat little illustration of the fact that, however honest, however able, however active a man may be in a movement, his usefulness to the working class interests depends, not upon his honesty, his ability and his activity merely, but upon the material interests of the class that animates him.

Among the Home Rule members of Parliament is a distinguished gentleman by the name of Redmond. Now, then, Mr. Healy, referring to the recent rise in the price of land in Ireland, makes this graphic explanation:

“What has happened—I put the question to any sensible man in this room or out of it—what has happened to raise the price of land? (Applause.) Well, now, I will tell you what has happened, and there is no reason why in the friendliest manner I should not refer to it, because I think it a regrettable incident. What has happened is this, that Mr. Redmond has insisted on getting 24½ years’ purchase for his estate. Now, I don’t intend to say one hurtful word to Mr. Redmond, but I say this, that I think he might have waited a bit (applause). I say he has put up the price on every tenant in Ireland. (A Voice—There’s a leader!) And while I have the highest respect for his great parliamentary abilities, and I am bound to pay him this credit, that a more effective leader in the House of Commons the Irish Party could not have—nobody quarrels with his leadership, but when we look around to see what has bulled up the price of the land, we are entitled, as public men, and you are entitled, as private individuals, to express opinions. This is to some extent a free country (laughter). We are as yet allowed to express our opinions, and in order to show you how good an Act this is for landlords and how keen the landlords ought to be to take advantage of it, let me show you how this land purchase of Mr. Redmond’s has worked out for himself, and I take these figures from a public

statement issued by apparently his own authority. He is getting for his land £41,000. The bonus that he is getting from the Government of 12 per cent. is £4,900—not for a year's work (laughter)—which comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers of the country. This is altogether £45,900. Now, there were mortgages on the estates to the extent of £26,000, and there was an annuity of £1,000, which, as the lady to whom it was paid is an old lady, will probably be bought out at six years' purchase, so that the deductions that will have to be made for mortgages and clearing off the annuity will be £32,000, and he, I am glad to say, will have remaining as his portion of the estate £13,900. Now, I call it for the purpose of calculation £14,000. If you invest that at 3½ per cent., which is what the landlords are claiming, you get £455 a year, and Mr. Redmond will now be getting for the future £455 a year from an estate out of which he never got £100 a year at any time. Is that the principle of net income?"

This account is worth whole libraries on the "material conception of history." Mr. Redmond can not be charged with dishonesty. The fact knocks out Mr. Healy himself. The Home Rule party of Ireland is not a party of the Irish working class. The working class figures in that party in no other role than it does in any and all other parties of private property in the means and opportunities for work—as food for cannon. The Irish Home Rule party wants to preserve for the Irish landlords and capitalist the privilege of fleecing the Irish proletariat, to the exclusion of the British lords. Mr. Redmond, like our own successful populists, sought to increase his own per capita of circulation medium. He diligently labored for that end, and seems to have succeeded, while Mr. Healy is yet in the woods.

The Redmond success and the Healy exposure knocks out both, along with their party.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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